UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/50/48
18 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda items 116 and 26

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/50/L.59

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 11, 15 and 16 of draft resolution A/50/L.59, the General Assembly would:

(a) Invite all political partners to organize, in accordance with the Convention on Governance, and as soon as national conditions so permit, a general debate on the country's basic problems with a view to the conclusion of a national covenant and the adoption of a constitution adapted to the current socio-political requirements;

(b) Invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to continue their respective and complementary missions aimed at securing effective national reconciliation in Burundi;

(c) Express the hope that the Secretary-General of the United Nations would undertake consultations, following the usual procedure, with the Government of Burundi for the appointment of a special representative possessing all the qualifications, particularly an in-depth knowledge of the socio-political situation in Burundi.

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B. Relationship of the proposed requests to the medium-term plan and for the period 1992-1997, as revised

2. The above requests are related to subprogramme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, of programme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, research and the collection and analysis of information of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised. 1/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.59, the Secretary-General would continue to exercise his good offices to facilitate the return of the country to constitutional rule and to restore peace, confidence and security for all. In consultation with the Government of Burundi, a special representative would be appointed to assist in facilitating the dialogue among the people of Burundi and to promote the introduction and implementation of reforms, taking due account of the fundamental rights of each citizen and the need to ensure equality of opportunity in areas such as the restoration of the rule of law; the reform of the judicial system or the improvement of the balance of the system; land reform; economic development; and the establishment of democratic institutions and the participation of the people.

4. In October 1993, following the coup d'état in Burundi, the Secretary-General requested the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to travel immediately to Burundi as his Special Envoy on a good offices mission to facilitate the return of the country to constitutional rule. In a letter dated 2 November 1993 to the President of the Security Council (S/26745), the Secretary-General indicated, inter alia, that while the Government of Burundi requested the deployment of an international force to protect strategic installations and institutions in the country, his Special Envoy had pointed out the difficulties for the United Nations to assemble peace-keeping forces for ongoing operations and noted that the request for a large international force would not be considered realistic. As one of the confidence-building measures, his Special Envoy suggested the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative who would facilitate the restoration of constitutional rule. In his letter dated 4 November addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/26708), the Secretary-General brought to the attention of the Security Council the appointment of his special representative to Burundi.

5. In its resolution 48/17 of 3 November 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, supported the efforts by the Secretary-General to promote a return to constitutional order and the protection of democratic institutions in Burundi, and commended the Secretary-General for having sent a special envoy to Burundi.

6. The Security Council, in a statement by the President (S/26757), also welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General of a special representative for Burundi; and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue using his good offices through his special representative and to consider dispatching in his

support as soon as possible a small United Nations team to Burundi for fact-finding and advice with a view to facilitating the efforts of the Government of Burundi and OAU.

7. In the period that followed, the political situation in Burundi continued to be volatile and the Secretary-General periodically reviewed the activities of his Special Representative to Burundi; and considered it necessary for his Special Representative to continue his good offices efforts aimed at contributing to a peaceful solution of the problems in the country. The Special Representative's efforts contributed to a political process in the country. Accordingly, the Secretary-General, under the authority granted to him by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/229 of 23 December 1993 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures, extended the good offices mission of his Special Representative periodically in the interest of preventive diplomacy. The activities of his Special Representative have been reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first performance report (A/C.5/49/43) and the second performance report (A/C.5/50/21) for the biennium 1994-1995.

D. Additional requirements for 1996

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.59, the good offices mission of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General would continue to endeavour, in 1996, to reach out to all leaders to ensure their support for the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the effective national reconciliation in Burundi. The requirements for the office of the Special Representative and his support staff would continue to consist of his Special Representative, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, one Political Adviser on constitution and election law (at the D-1 level), one Political Affairs Officer (at the P-4 level), an Administrative Officer (at the P-3 level), and four General Service staff (one at the Principal Level for a Finance Assistant; and three at the Other Level, one for an Assistant to the Special Representative and two to provide secretarial support). In addition, 16 posts at the Local Level would be required to serve as interpreters, security officers, dispatchers, customs clearance officer, liaison officer, bilingual secretary and drivers/messengers.

9. The total personnel and the related operating costs are estimated at $1,872,000. These are summarized in the table below and detailed in the annex to the present report.

	1996 (Thousands of United States dollars)
Salaries and common staff costs	794.6
Mission subsistence allowance	274.7
Travel of staff	176.4
Consultants	100.0
Rental and maintenance of premises	54.8
Transport operations	75.0
Air operations	192.0
Communications	156.0
Miscellaneous services and supplies	30.0
Furniture and equipment	18.5
Total	1 872.0

E. Potential for absorption

10. No provision was made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 under section 3 for activities related to the situation in Burundi. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the requirements of $1,872,000 for 1996 could be absorbed from within the resources appropriated under section 3, Peace-keeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. 2/

F. Indication of additional requirements

11. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/50/L.59, additional resources of $1,872,000 would be required for 1996 under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

G. Contingency fund

12. The activities relating to the situation in Burundi are of an extraordinary nature and should be dealt with outside the procedures related to the contingency fund, as provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

H. Action required from the General Assembly

13. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, an additional appropriation of $1,872,000 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. An additional appropriation of $171,000 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

ANNEX

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi

Supplementary information on cost estimates for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1996

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	Additional requirements for 1996
A. Personnel costs	
1. Salaries and common staff costs	794.6

The provision would cover the cost of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Burundi (at the Assistant Secretary-General level); one Senior Political Adviser on constitution and election law (at the D-1 level); one Political Affairs Officer (at the P-4 level); one Administrative Officer (at the P-3 level); four General Service staff (one at the Principal Level for a Finance Assistant, one Assistant to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and two Secretaries); and 16 Local Level posts (which serve as interpreters, security officers, dispatchers, customs clearance officer, liaison officer, bilingual secretary and drivers/messengers). Salaries are estimated at $557,100 and common staff costs at $237,500.

2. Mission subsistence allowance	274.7

Monthly mission allowance in respect of seven international staff is estimated at $131 per day for the first 30 days and $101 per day thereafter.

3. Travel of staff	176.4

The requirements relate to travel and subsistence allowance for travel of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General within the Great Lakes region of Central Africa (Nairobi, Kigali, Addis Ababa, Zaire) and travel to Geneva, Paris, Brussels; and consultation travel to New York.

4. Consultants	100.0

Provisions are made for the services of approximately three international consultants for a duration of five months each: one for an expert in national debate, institution building and constitutional law; one expert in ethical, racial coexistence and cohabitation, and the peaceful resolution of internal conflicts; and one jurist with expertise in the resolution of internal conflicts and issues.

Total, personnel costs	1 345.7

B. Operational costs

5. Rental and maintenance of premises 54.8

The estimated resources relate to rental of premises for 12 months at $3,000 per month ($36,000); utilities, estimated at $500 per month ($6,000); fuel for generators, estimated at $66 per month ($800); miscellaneous maintenance service, estimated at $500 per month ($6,000); and supplies to maintain premises, estimated at $500 per month ($6,000).

6. Transport operations 75.0

Provision is made for petrol, oil and lubricants for eight vehicles at a daily usage rate of 12 litres per vehicle at $0.54 per litre, or $6.50 per day per vehicle for the 12-month period ($19,000). Annual insurance for each vehicle is estimated at $200 per vehicle ($1,600); maintenance is estimated at a monthly rate of $500 per vehicle ($48,000); and spare parts for the full fleet of vehicles available to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the 12-month period ($6,400).

7. Air operations 192.0

Provisions are made for transportation within the provinces of Burundi. The estimates relate to reimbursement to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for usage of its helicopter. Ten flying hours per month are estimated, at a cost of $1,600 per flying hour (all inclusive) for the 12-month period.

8. Communications 156.0

The estimates relate to commercial satellite communication charges based on 30 minutes per day at a cost of $10 per minute for one year ($109,800). Pouch, telex and other charges are also provided for at an estimated cost of $46,200.

9. Miscellaneous services and supplies 30.0

Miscellaneous services are estimated at $24,000 and would cover the cost of hospitality ($2,000); and other miscellaneous services, estimated at $500 per month ($6,000), including cleaning services for offices and maintenance of furniture and equipment used by the Office; and the cost of commercial freight and cartage charges ($16,000). Miscellaneous supplies, estimated at $6,000 (at a rate of $500 per month), would cover the cost of stationery and office supplies and other miscellaneous supplies that may be required.

10. Furniture and equipment 18.5

Provisions relate to the purchase of rubber water bladders for generators ($10,800). Equipment available, estimated at $53,000, would also be shipped to the Office (four desktop computers and software, UPS units, printers, shredders, generators, water pumps for generators and one photocopying machine). The freight of those equipment to be made available from Brindisi and the acquisition of furniture equipment ($7,700) is included in the estimates.

Total, operational costs	526.3
Grand total	1 872.0